MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The encroachments were removed.

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

PRESIDENT: Order, order.

I have received notice of a motion for adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing important questions arising out of reports in the Press regarding the reply made by the Dewan recently in the Munar Camp to a memorial which was presented by the All-Travancore Political Congress. I have therefore to decide, before I ask the House, whether this motion is admissible.

In the first place, it is a moot question whether any pronouncement made by the Dewan or the replies given by him to any address or deputation can be regarded as a subject-matter of discussion on the floor of the House.

In the second place, the motion has been made merely on the strength of what has appeared in the public Press. The utmost that could be said in favour of such publication will be that they are alleged to have been made by the Dewan. There is, until now, no official publication of the matter. As honourable members of the House will be aware, conflicting statements have already appeared in the public Press as to what the Dewan said or did not say.

Thirdly, I am not convinced myself that this is a matter of such urgency as to call for or necessitate the adjournment of the House to consider the motion.

For these reasons. I over-rule the motion.

WELCOME TO THE NEW PRESIDENT.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Urban*): On behalf of the members of this Assembly, the lower House of the Representative Legislature of Travancore, and on my own behalf, I offer you a most hearty welcome as our President. The representative institutions in this State are the result of the enlightened policy pursued by the late illustrious Maharaja Sri Mulam Thirunal, a policy which has been amplified and extended by His Highness Sri Chitra Thirunal Maharaja so early in His Highness' reign. There is no Indian State where the rights of citizenship, the rule of law and the forms of legislation are more respected than in Travancore. This Assembly and the Sri Chitra State Council are striving to attain to and maintain that standard of public criticism and control which the world expects to find in this premier State so rich in the intelligence of its people and in its native beauty and national resources, a State proud of its historical antecedents associated with a Ruling Family, the most ancient, the best cultured and patriotic, in all India. In Travancore, Sir, you find side by side with the smallest civil list, a colossal expenditure of public funds on education, public works and other nation-building activities. You find a

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religious toleration the like of which is seldom seen even in India. You find a consciousness of safety and security in an atmosphere of genuine loyalty to the Throne. In this country, all right-thinking men and women subordinate racial, communal and religious differences to the common weal. Yet, there are divergent stand-points from which public questions are viewed. The problems of legislation and administration are difficult and complicated. But a proper solution is not impossible.

We are endeavouring to do our duty and discharge our responsibilities in a spirit of self-respect and mutual confidence. We are enjoying complete freedom of speech hedged round only by those rules which are designed to make debate useful, orderly and profitable, in conformity with the established parliamentary procedure in other countries. We adhere to forms, for we realise that form is the twin-sister of liberty. But we appreciate, all the same, the value of conventions which are but in the course of growth. The various parties and interests, including the Government, are working together in a spirit of good will and there is perfect mutual confidence between the House and the Chair. The diginity, prestige and authority of the Chair is dear to us all.

We are happy, Sir, that in you we are welcoming a distinguished son of India who has established, throughout his own country and in the wider British Empire, a reputation for true patriotism, a love of truth and justice, a conciliatory kindness and a judicial detachment. This is the first time that this House is able to secure as its President a statesman with such intimate acquaintance as you possess with the working of Local and Central Legislatures in British India and a knowledge of the aims and aspirations of that august body which envisages the welfare of the world notwithstanding the barriers of geographical, racial, linguistic and religious divergences—I mean the League of Nations. We feel sure that the traditions of this House will be safe under your guidance and that your association will redound to its prestige, strength and influence for good. We hope that Travancore will take its recognised place in the fore-front of Indian States in the National Parliament of Federated India. We are proud to welcome you, Sir, as our President.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*): I may say, before we proceed, that, though I entirely agree with my learned friend in welcoming you, Sir, as the President of the Assembly, and the sentiments expressed in that connection, that I regret to say that we were not consulted about this reference, and I do not agree with some of his statements which are irrelevant to the occasion.

PRESIDENT: Members of the Sri Mulam Assembly, as this is the first occasion on which, by virtue of my office as Dewan, it is my privilege to preside over the deliberations of the Assembly, I wish, if I may, to extend to you my warm greetings and to express

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[President.]

the hope that our relations will be happy and cordial during the time that I shall have the honour to be your President. Indeed the manner in which you have welcomed me and the nice things you have said about me fill me with hope. It is needless to assure you that they are a source of great encouragement to me in the performance of my duties. It was my intention to summon a joint session of the two Houses and address them together; but as the session of the other House will begin about a week later, I could not persuade myself to summon them to-day as I felt it would be highly inconvenient to them.

It is not perhaps unknown to you that my association with Legislative bodies has been long, intimate and varied. It was in the year 1909, when the Minto-Morley Reforms were ushered in in British India, that I had the rare fortune of being elected to the Madras Legislative Council by the General Electorate—in which, of course, the Hindu voters predominated—an incident in my life of which I have always been proud. Subsequently, both as member of the Madras Executive Council and of the Governor-General's Executive Council, I was connected with Provincial and Imperial Legislatures for over a decade. I may thus claim that I possess some knowledge of the working of Legislative bodies in British India. It is needless to assure you that whatever knowledge I have obtained and whatever experience I have gained in that field will be placed at your disposal so that, with our conjoint efforts, we might make our own Legislature, over which I preside, as model of what such institutions should be. Believe me when I say that it will always be my endeavour to uphold the diginity and independence of the Assembly and the State Council—of which also I am the President—and I believe I am correct in anticipating that I shall have your whole hearted support and co-operation for that purpose.

However perfect and exhaustive the Rules, Regulations and Standing Orders may be, and however much they may have made provision for all matters of detail and procedure to regulate the conduct of proceedings, there will still be questions which may require to be decided by conventions, either created here or worth adoption from similar bodies elsewhere. I hope, as we go on, you may keep this fact in mind and, if and when the necessity arises, establish wholesome conventions to smoothen and facilitate transaction of business. Any help which I can render in that direction will be at your service.

I hope there is no impression in any quarter that the Legislature and Government are the antagonistic parts of the administrative machinery and that the former exists merely to criticise the actions of Government and to give publicity to its defections, if any. To my mind nothing can be farther from the truth. Having, as I said, worked both as an elected non-official member of a Legislature and as an *ex officio* nominated member of other Legislatures, I have always

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regarded a Legislative body which owes its existence to a Statute framed by Government and which, in this case, is the product of the Royal pleasure of the Ruler, as an integral part of Government; in other words, both have equal responsibilities for the good and efficient conduct of the administration of the country. Judged from this standard, I fervently hope that our discussions in this House will be conducted in a spirit of harmony, goodwill and correct understanding. Let it be remembered that both Government and the Legislature have a common purpose to serve, namely, the happiness, prosperity and contentment of the loving subjects of our Gracious Sovereign. Let us always cherish in our mind the ennobling and inspiring message with which His Highness the Maharaja inaugurated the first session of the Reformed Legislature. "Politics", observed His Highness, "are but a means to an end and there is need for a wide outlook and a patriotism that transcends temporary and accidental barriers of birth and creed to bring about the rehabilitation of our agriculture and the development of our industries and the general levelling up of our standards with a view to secure for our people the peace and prosperity that are the aim as well as the justification of all governments."

I am not unmindful of the fact that your performances as members of this Honourable House have been borne testimony to by my predecessor. When you bade him a regretful good-bye at the last session, Mr. Austin gave unequivocal expression to the fact that he was very proud to have been the President of this Assembly and the State Council and he added that, while you have now great powers and with them great responsibilities, it was his belief and hope that you would use them to the best advantage of the State and of His Highness the Maharaja. May I express the fervent hope that, when the time comes for me to say good-bye to you, I shall have the opportunity of adding my own tribute to that testimony.

Before I conclude, I shall, with your permission, invite your earnest attention to the obligations which have been imposed on you both by Rules and Standing Orders in regard to the framing of interpellations and resolutions. As President of this House, the duty of admitting or rejecting them has been cast on me by law. In the course of the discharge of these duties, I regret to bring to your notice that, in several instances, the limitations and conditions subject to which interpellations may be asked and resolutions moved have not been adhered to. As this was the first session in which I had to exercise those powers, I have deliberately brought greater leniency to bear in their admission and rejection. I will, however, impress upon you the need for a strict observance of the provisions of the Standing Orders. There is generally a tendency either to ask for the opinion of Government or for a statement of their policy or for an expression of their future intentions. As members will themselves recognise, interpellations are merely vehicles for obtaining information from Government on matters of public interest. I wish also to caution you against the tendency which seems to exist of sending to the Press advance copies of interpellations

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[President.]

or resolutions, as the case may be, before they have been admitted by the President. Such a procedure has been condemned in strong terms by every other President elsewhere and I hope that both the members and the public Press will co-operate with me in refusing to yield to such a temptation. I have glanced through some of the proceedings of the two Houses of Legislature and I notice a tendency on the part of some members to convert themselves into cross-examining counsel and to subject each other to volleys of questions across the table. Such a procedure does not add to the dignity of the House and will, I hope, cease to exist. If any information has to be elicited or any matter under discussion elucidated, the member seeking such information or elucidation can do so only through the Chair and not by a direct dealing with his colleagues. Another matter on which I wish to warn you is the habit of subjecting a speaker to interruptions in the course of his speech. It must be remembered that, when any Honourable member is addressing the House, he is in possession of the House and under the protection of the Chair. While such interruptions are a source of embarrassment to the speaker, they detract from all decorum which is essential for orderly conduct of proceedings in the House. Believe me, I have not made these observations in a spirit of carping criticism, but with a sincere desire to raise the standard of our discussions to that level which should be the aim and purpose of all of us.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): I wish to raise a point of order, Sir. The first is whether any member of this House can speak on behalf of any other without previously obtaining his authority express or implied. The second point is whether the members of this House would hereafter be called "Honourable" members in view of a ruling of the Deputy President when he was the President of the Assembly at the last sitting. These are the two important points I have to raise and I request you, Sir, to clear these two doubts.

PRESIDENT: With regard to the latter, I may at once say that, although the members are not entitled to be called 'Honourable,' all the same, nothing is seriously wrong if this term is used as a matter of courtesy between each other. That term is used in houses where the members are not at all "Honourable". Even in the Madras Legislative Council or in the Legislative Assembly, under the Statute, they are not called Honourable members, but as between themselves they extend that courtesy between each other and I do not think there is anything seriously wrong about it or that it is a violation of law or statute.

As regards the former, that is, whether one member can speak on behalf of another if he is absent, I am afraid, I cannot give a ruling until such contingency arises.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know whether a member can speak on behalf of another without the sanction, expressed or implied, whether he is present or absent?

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PRESIDENT: When such a contingency develops, I will lay down the ruling. I am not expected to give answers to hypothetical questions.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): This doubt has arisen on account of the statement made by the Deputy President and the observations made by the leader of our party when he said that, even though he agreed with all the sentiments contained in the speech of the Deputy President welcoming the Dewan as our President, he did not agree with some statements made there because they are statements made without consulting us. Under the circumstances, I wish to know if it is our leader who is in the right or the Deputy President who made the statement without consulting us.

PRESIDENT: I wish you will settle the matter between yourselves. (*Laughter*).

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Urban*): I began by saying "on behalf of the members of this House" and I made a pretty long speech. Friends belonging to all parties and those who belong to no party were listening with very great attention, so that I do not know whether it is open to any member now to say that it was not on his behalf that I spoke a few words. I definitely and distinctly stated in the commencement that I was addressing the President on behalf of the members of this Assembly.

I may also mention, Sir, that I did not take to myself any power which I did not possess. Welcoming the President when he comes for the first time is an act of courtesy. Some of my friends casually mentioned that I should perform that act. That is all. No formal consultation was necessary and there were no formal consultations on previous occasions. I was quite right in following the precedent. The House will kindly excuse me for taking their time for this explanation.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Under Rule 76 of the Travancore Legislative Rules, I beg to lay on the table the following statement of expenditure authorised by the Government under Section 32 of Regulation II of 1108:

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